



Department of Justice

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MARCELINE, MISSOURI MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

ST. LOUIS, MO - Theodore D. Kleist, was indicted on federal charges of possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway and Linn County Prosecuting Attorney Tracy Carlson announced today.

"Thanks to the great work of Prosecuting Attorney Carlson and the Marceline Police Department, Mr. Kleist is now in custody and has been charged with federal crimes. Mr. Carlson and Marceline police officers made sure this case went federal because there is no parole in the federal system, and Mr. Kleist, if convicted, will go to jail for a long time," said Hanaway.

"I am very pleased that Kleist has been indicted and I look forward to providing whatever assistance I may to fully prosecute the allegations," added Prosecuting Attorney Carlson.

Kleist, 36, of 100 block of East Crocker Street, Marceline, was indicted late last week by a federal grand jury on three felony counts of possession of child pornography. If convicted, each count carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000, followed by supervised release for life.

The indictment alleges that in July 2006, Kleist possessed numerous images of child pornography on his computer and on computer disks. These images contained minors under the age of eighteen engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

In addition to the PA Carlson and the Marceline Police Department, Hanaway went on to commend the joint investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Regional Computer Crime Education & Enforcement Group.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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